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September 8, 2003

**MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

17497 U.S. PTO  
10/656160  
09/08/03

Re: Application of Henry Jay GROEN and Linwood "Pete" SMITH  
GRAVITY-OPERATED SEPARABLE LINK  
Our Ref. A8617

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto is the application identified above comprising twenty-one (21) sheets of the specification, including the claims and abstract, eight (8) sheets of drawings, and executed Declaration and Power of Attorney.

Applicant claims benefit of small entity status in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.27.

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows (**Small Entity fees apply**):

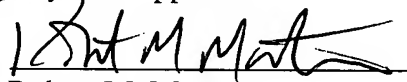
Total claims	<u>23</u>	-	20	=	<u>3</u>	x	\$9.00	=	<u>\$27.00</u>
Independent claims	<u>2</u>	-	3	=	<u></u>	x	\$42.00	=	<u>\$0.00</u>
Base Fee									<u>\$375.00</u>

<b>TOTAL FEE</b>									<u><b>\$402.00</b></u>
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A check for the statutory filing fee of \$402.00 is attached. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

Respectfully submitted,  
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC

Attorneys for Applicant

By:   
Robert M. Masters  
Registration No. 35,603

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**23373**

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